

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-51 are currently pending.

**II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-25, 27-32, 34-37 AND 39-51 UNDER
35 USC 102(B) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY JP 05-292036**

Claim 1 recites an optical amplifier comprising: (a) an optical fiber through which an input light travels, the input light being amplified as the input light travels through the optical fiber via first pumping light *traveling through the optical fiber in an opposite direction than the input light*; (b) an optical splitter splitting off a portion of the amplified input light, the first pumping light being controlled in accordance with a monitored optical power of said split portion; and (c) an optical fiber amplifier, optically connected to the optical splitter, amplifying the input light having said portion split off therefrom via second pumping light.

JP 05-292036 discloses an optical amplifier having a front stage optical amplifier 1, an optical branch device 3 and a rear stage optical amplifier 2.

In the Office Action, the Examiner correlates the front stage optical amplifier 1 of JP 05-292036 to the "optical fiber" recited, for example, in claim 1. The Examiner also correlates the optical branch device 3 of JP 05-292036 to the optical splitter recited, for example, in claim 1. Moreover, the Examiner correlates the rear stage optical amplifier 2 of JP 05-292036 to the optical fiber amplifier recited, for example, in claim 1.

However, in JP 05-292036, pump light travels through the front stage optical amplifier 1 *in the same direction* as the signal light input to the front stage optical amplifier 1. This is significantly different than that recited, for example, in claim 1, where the first pumping light travels through the optical fiber *in an opposite direction* than the input light.

For example, FIG. 2(a) of JP 05-292036 discloses the configuration of the front stage optical amplifier 1. As can be seen in this figure, pump light from pump source 82 travels in the same direction as the signal light.

Please note that the configuration in FIG. 2(b) of JP 05-292036 is for the rear stage optical amplifier 2 of JP 05-292036.

Accordingly, the configuration in JP 05-292036 is different than that recited, for example, in claim 1.

The above comments are specifically directed to claim 1. However, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding patentable differences of other claims over the cited reference.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 26, 33 AND 38 UNDER 35 USC 103 AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER JP 05-292036 IN VIEW OF JP 05-048207

The comments in Section II, above, apply here, where appropriate.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

IV. "INITIALING" OF REFERENCE IN IDS

The Examiner acknowledged the IDS filed December 10, 2004, but did not "initial" reference AH listed on Form PTO-1449 of the IDS.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner "initial" reference AH.

V. CONCLUSION

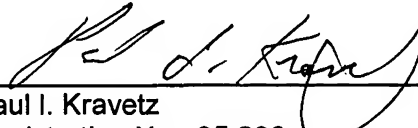
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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